Central Valley: Sand, gravel, 10,000
silt, and clay; continental and marine origin. Unconfined and confined.
Basin-fill, desert areas: Sand, gravel, 700
silt, and clay, mostly of continental origin. Unconfined and confined.
50-500 1,000 50-1,500
20-400 1,000 200-1,500
Volcanic rocks: Andesite, rhyolite, and basalt. Mostly unconfined; confined locally.
unknown
75-200
300 100-1,000
3,000 Largest aquifer system and greatest concentration of ground-water pumpage in California. Corcoran Clay Member, an extensive confining layer, exists in much of San Joaquin Valley.
4,000 Aquifers in some basins
deep, and some wells have large yields. Recharge limited by little rainfall. Some aquifers recharged by runoff from streams that originate in high mountains.
4,000 Water occurs in rubble zones, pipes, and fractures. Well yields extremely variable, with a few exceptionally productive wells and many dry holes. Potential yield far exceeds present use.
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey, 1984.